



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE &  
LAW ENFORCEMENT



RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES  
STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

~~Part XIV~~  
~~Fish Traps~~

~~December 29, 2010~~

Summary of Proposed Changes

PROPOSED REPEAL OF REGULATION

In conjunction with proposed repeal of "RIMFR Part 10 – Equipment Restrictions", "Part 11 – Commercial Fisheries", and "Part 13 – Gillnet Regulations", and proposed ADOPTION of RIMFR "Part 6 – General Equipment Provisions"

Public hearing  
March 14, 2016

**AUTHORITY:** These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6, 20-1-2, 20-1-4, 20-3-2 through 20-3-6, 20-4 through 20-10, and in accordance with 42-35, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

NOTE: This regulation is proposed to be repealed, however most of the language is not in actuality proposed for repeal, but is only proposed to be re-located to a new regulation “Part 6 – General Equipment Provisions” as part of a regulation re-structuring effort designed to improve the readability and clarity of Marine Fisheries regulations.

In many instances the language is proposed to be revised as it is re-located. This summary provides annotated changes to assist the reader with understanding the proposed changes

6.6.1 Permit required: No person shall set a fish trap in the public waters of the state without first obtaining a permit as provided in these regulations. (RIGL 20-5-1)

6.6.2 Eligibility: A permit may be issued to any resident of this state or to any corporations incorporated in the state licensed in accordance with RIGL Chapter 2.1 upon payment of an permit fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per trap location. (RIGL 20-5-2)

6.6.3 Application: Application for a fish trap permit shall be made on forms as prescribed by the Director.

6.6.4 Expiration and renewal of permits:

(A) Permits shall be provided for a three (3) year period, or for that portion thereof expiring on the last day of December of each third year thereafter.

(B) On termination of any permit, the Director may renew the permit by issuing a new permit in place of the permit.

(1) Eligibility: Application for permit renewal shall be made within ten (10) days before its termination. Failure to apply for a permit renewal shall allow for a permit application in location as specified in the permit by any other person. (RIGL 20-5-9)

6.6.5 Exclusive right of permittee – Assignment of permit:

(A) The holder of any permit, or the holder's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns shall have the exclusive right to fish the location by means of a fish trap, provided that the site is and has been actively fished.

(B) Any holder of a permit may, upon approval of the Director, transfer the

permit to any suitable person. This approval must be endorsed on the permit in order to become effective. (RIGL 20-5-10)

6.6.6 Report as to traps placed; failure to occupy location; removal of permit from state: On or before the tenth day of January in each year every person holding a permit pursuant to this chapter shall notify the department of environmental management in writing, under oath, what traps were placed under the permit during the preceding calendar year. Failure to furnish this information makes the permit null and void after that date. Failure to place a complete fish trap on a permitted location for a part of one calendar year may, in the discretion of the director of environmental management, make the permit for the fish trap null and void; and the location will then become available for any suitable applicant. A permit for a fish trap location becomes null and void upon the removal of the holder from the state. (RIGL 20-5-13)

6.6.7 Removal of trap on cessation of use; closed season; damaged or dilapidated traps: Upon ceasing to use any fish trap as authorized, that structure shall at once be removed by the owner at the owner's expense and to the satisfaction of the director of environmental management. Failure to remove it shall be considered sufficient grounds for prosecution of the owner for maintaining a public nuisance or for revocation of the fish trap permit. Unless otherwise specified by regulations adopted by the marine fisheries council, all fish traps authorized in this chapter shall be completely removed by or before the last day of December of each year; and no fish trap shall be reset before the first day of the following March. All submerged or broken stakes must be promptly removed. Any fish trap damaged or allowed to get into a dilapidated condition will be regarded as abandoned unless promptly removed or rebuilt. Failure to do this will subject the owner to prosecution and forfeiture of the trap. (RIGL 20-5-14)

14.1 Reporting requirements: On or before the tenth day of January of each year, each licensee/fish trap operator shall submit a written report to the Department of Environmental Management, indicating those locations where the licensee shall be setting fish traps during the upcoming fishing season. These locations shall be identified by **GPS**, LORAN **and**/or latitude and longitude coordinates and shall also include the dates upon which the licensee anticipates setting and removing the traps. This notification shall not prohibit a fish trap operator from subsequently, during the calendar year, setting additional traps on licensed locations that were not anticipated and for which notice was not therefore provided to the DEM. However, any deviations from the report must be reported in writing and received by the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, Rhode Island, 02835, prior to the setting of the trap. Failure to provide this information makes the fish trap operator's license null and void. Based on the reports of fish trap locations, the DEM shall develop a graphic chart displaying fish trap locations annually by June 1 for distribution to the public.

**Commented [DP(1):** Technically is new language as not currently in regulation. However all specified in statute, so in actuality nothing new proposed. Proposed to be added to regs as is prescriptive and follows format as in other regs. All located in Equipment regs section 6.6

**Commented [DP(2):** Added GPS per ORR

By 31 January of each year, the DEM shall review all trap site permits, and ~~those sites authorized pursuant to Rule 14.7 for which licenses have not currently been issued~~ shall be eliminated from the list of authorized sites for which licenses may be issued. The DEM shall provide notice in writing by registered mail to all those licensees who had most recently been issued permit(s) to set fish trap(s) in the locations of the sites to be eliminated. Said notice shall advise the affected licensee that the licensee may avoid the elimination of the trap location if written notice of such a desire to avoid elimination is received by the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, Rhode Island, 02835, on or before thirty (30) days of the licensee's receipt of the notice of elimination.

**14.1-1 Sub-leasing of Permitted Fish Trap Locations** – It is prohibited to sub-lease or allow any other person to use a permitted fish trap location. Any violation of this section shall make the permit for the fish trap null and void. (RIGL 20-5-10(b), 20-5-13).

~~14.2 Inspection of traps: Fish trap inspections, as required by RIGL 20-5-11, shall be conducted at least once in the spring and fall of each calendar year. The results of fish trap inspections shall be reported to the RI Marine Fisheries Council the month following each inspection.~~

**Commented [DP(3):** Not a regulation; not for regulated; covered by statute

**14.3 Hook-backs in Leaders:** Each leader shall be set as nearly as may be in a straight line, no bend or angle, known commonly as a "hook-back," shall be permitted. (RIGL 20-5-7)

**14.4 Distance between traps:** As specified in RIGL 20-5-4, the Director may grant a license for the erection of a fish trap within a lesser distance of three thousand feet of an adjoining trap if the parties interested agree in writing to such a lesser distance. Such decisions shall be made with the advice of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

**14.5 Navigational Aids to Fish Traps and Appurtenances:** Licensees must comply with the following requirements, failure to comply shall make license null and void. All floating fish traps deployed within Rhode Island State waters shall be marked with no less than four (4) radar reflective buoys (hi-flyers) each positioned no more than one hundred feet (100') from the trap or its appurtenances in the following locations: one buoy shall be located at the shoreward end of the leader, one buoy on the seaward end of the leader adjacent to the head of the trap, and two buoys shall be located on the seaward side of the head of the trap.

Floating fish traps located at sites 13F, 26C, 25B, 398, 120-19, 122-19, 383-19, 75A, 68B, 69B, 400-23, and 475-30 shall be marked as specified by the United States Coast Guard in its communication to the Department dated September 13, 2005. Specifically, site 13F shall be marked with a 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy with a 4 second flashing light. Site 26C shall be marked with a 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy with a 6 second flashing light. Site 25B shall be marked with a 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy with a 4 second flashing light at the southern end of the trap and an unlit 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy at the northern end. Sites 398 and 383-19 shall be

marked with an unlit 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy. Sites 75A, 69B, 475-30 and 68B shall be marked with an unlit 6<sup>th</sup> class buoy. Sites 122-19 and 400-23 shall be marked with a 5<sup>th</sup> class buoy with a 2.5 second flashing light. Each of the above-described buoys shall be positioned within 100' of the head of the floating fish trap and its appurtenances.

14.6 ~~Gear Damage: No person shall cause any damage to a fish trap of a person licensed under this title [Penalty — Part 3.3 (RIGL 20-3-3). Willful injury to traps: No person shall willfully or maliciously cut, remove, displace, tamper with, or in any way damage any trap, leader, or pound set by virtue of the permit provided for in these regulations. (RIGL 20-5-18)~~

Commented [DP(4)]: From statute

14.7 Restricted Locations: No fish traps shall be erected within the waters of the State with the exception of the following sites (map shows approximate locations and orientation of traps):

(1) The following sites are located south of Newport and Middletown within the area designated for floating fish traps by the engineer's office of the Department of the Army.

(a) Sites 13B, 13C, 13D, 13E, and 13F, located in a line extending southeasterly at approximately 135° beginning at Seal Rock (41° 26'39"N, 71° 20'49"W) so-called, and ending at approximately 41° 25'1"N, 71° 18'0"W.

(b) Sites 26A, 26B, 26C, and 26D located in a line extending southeasterly at approximately 135° from Flat Rock (41° 27'03"N, 71° 18'24"W) so-called, and ending at approximately 41° 26'15"N, 71° 17'0"W.

(c) Sites 111 and 112 located in a line extending southwesterly at approximately 225° from the west side of Price's Neck (41° 26'58"N, 71° 20'15"W), so-called, for a distance not exceeding 1,500 feet.

(d) Sites 133, 136 and 324 located in a line extending southeasterly at approximately 150° from the east side of Price's Neck (41° 27'0"N, 71° 20'5"W), so-called, for a distance not exceeding 3,300 feet.

(e) Sites 113A, 113B, 113C, 113D, 113E, and 113F located in a line extending southeasterly at approximately 135° from Coggeshall's Point (41° 27'4" N, 71°18'42" W) so-called, beginning just south of the inner area designated by the engineer's office of the Department of the Army at approximately 41°26'6"N, 71°16'56"W and ending near the eastern limits of the outer area designated by the engineer's office of the Department of the Army at approximately 41° 24'50"N, 71°14'47"W.

(f) Sites 25A, 25B and 25C located in a line beginning approximately seven thousand four hundred feet (7,400') south-southeast (200°) of Cormorant Rock (41°27'36"N, 71°14'51"W) so-called, at approximately 41° 26' 29" N, 71° 15' 29"

W extending southeasterly ( $120^\circ$ ) and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 25' 56''$  N,  $71^\circ 14' 21''$  W.

(g) Sites 54A and 54B located in line extending northwest at approximately  $310^\circ$  for three thousand three hundred sixty feet (3,360') beginning at the southerly limits of the outer area designated by the engineer's office of the Department of the Army at approximately  $41^\circ 24' 48''$  N,  $71^\circ 16' 56''$  W, 5,000 feet east-southeast of the southeastern end of the line from Seal Rock described in subdivision (a) and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 25' 10''$  N,  $71^\circ 17' 30''$  W.

(h) Sites 37A and 37B located in line extending northwest at approximately  $310^\circ$  for 3,360' (1,680' each) beginning at the southerly limits of the outer area designated by the engineer's office of the Department of the Army at approximately  $41^\circ 24' 36''$  N,  $71^\circ 15' 51''$  W, 5,000 feet east-southeast of the southeastern end of the line from Seal Rock described in subdivision (g) and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 24' 58''$  N,  $71^\circ 16' 26''$  W.

(i) Sites 116 and 117 located in a line extending southeast at approximately  $125^\circ$  for 3,000 feet (1,500' each) from Gull Rock ( $41^\circ 27' 33''$  N,  $71^\circ 18' 1''$  W) so-called, and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 27' 13''$  N,  $71^\circ 17' 29''$  W.

(j) Sites 501A and 501B located in a line extending southeast at approximately  $125^\circ$  for 3,360 feet (1,680' each) beginning at approximately  $41^\circ 27' 8''$  N,  $71^\circ 17' 35''$  W and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 26' 44''$  N,  $71^\circ 16' 54''$  W.

(k) Site 287 beginning at the high tide line 600 feet south of "forty steps" at approximately  $41^\circ 28' 26''$  N,  $71^\circ 17' 49''$  W and extending east by south at approximately  $100^\circ$  for 1,680 feet.

(l) Site 23, designated for a pound net, is located approximately 4,600' south of Easton's Point so-called, at approximately  $41^\circ 27' 56''$  N,  $71^\circ 16' 31''$  W and is of the dimensions 600' by 600'.

(m) Sites 383-19A and 383-19B located in line beginning northeast of Sachuest Point at approximately  $41^\circ 28' 30''$  N,  $71^\circ 14' 22''$  W, extending at approximately  $135^\circ$  for 3,360 feet and ending at approximately  $41^\circ 28' 8''$  N,  $71^\circ 13' 49''$  W.

(n) Site 512-19 begins approximately 2,250 feet south of flint point ( $41^\circ 29' 9''$  N,  $71^\circ 14' 16''$  W) so-called, on the east side of Sachuest Point, and extends at approximately  $135^\circ$  for 1,680 feet ending at approximately  $41^\circ 28' 35''$  N,  $71^\circ 13' 58''$  W.

(o) Site 364, beginning at approximately  $41^\circ 27' 27''$  N and  $71^\circ 21' 35''$  W south of Castle Hill Lighthouse near Perry's Cove, extends approximately 400' west at approximately  $270^\circ$ , ending at approximately  $41^\circ 27' 23''$  N and  $71^\circ 21' 41''$ .

(p) Sites 191 and 192 extend in line off the southeast side of Easton's Point (41°28'45"N, 71°16'30"W) in a southwesterly direction at approximately 145° beginning at approximately 41° 28' 49" N and 71° 21' 41" W and ending at approximately 41° 28'39" N and 71° 16' 14" W.

(2) The following sites are located near Sakonnet Point within the area designated by the Department of the Army:

(a) Site 119-19 located approximately one mile south of Church's Point (41°29'59"N, 71°12'22"W) so-called, beginning at approximately 41°29'12"N, 71°11'45"W and extending 1,680 feet west by southwest at approximately 250°.

(b) Site 581-19 located approximately one mile south of Church's Point (41°29'59"N, 71°12'22"W), beginning at approximately 41°29'4"N, 71°12'14"W in line with and 900 feet from the outer end of site 119-19 and extending 1,680 feet west by southwest at approximately 250°.

(c) Site 580-19 located approximately 7,000 feet north of the breakwater (41°27'58"N, 71°11'43"W) beginning at approximately 41°29'2"N, 71°11'52" W and extending 1,680 feet west by south at approximately 250°.

(d) Site 293-19 located approximately 6,000 feet north of the breakwater (41°27'58"N, 71°11'43"W) beginning at approximately 41°28'55"N, 71°11'26"W and extending 1,680 feet west by south at approximately 250°.

(e) Site 227-19 located approximately 3,500 feet northeast of the breakwater (41°27'58"N, 71°11'43"W) beginning at approximately 41°28'31"N, 71°11'27"W and extending 1,680 feet west at approximately 270°.

(f) Site 584-19 located approximately 2,700 feet north of the breakwater (41°27'58"N, 71°11'43"W) beginning at approximately 41°28'24"N, 71°11'47"W and extending 1,680 feet west at approximately 270°.

(g) Site 122-19 located approximately 1,400 feet northeast of the breakwater (41°27'58"N, 71°11'43"W) beginning at approximately 41°28'14"N, 71°11'36"W and extending 1,680 feet west at approximately 255°.

(h) Site 120-19 begins approximately 300 feet north of the shore end of the Sakonnet breakwater (41°27'53"N, 71°11'45"W) and extends 1,680 feet west at approximately 270°.

(i) Site 261-19 begins 2,000 feet south of breakwater point (41°27'53"N, 71°11'45"W) at approximately 41°27'34"N, 71°11'41"W and extends 1,680 feet west at approximately 270°.

(j) Sites 398 and 118, located west of Sakonnet Point, extend in a line west by south at approximately 240° for 3,360 feet (1,680 feet each) beginning at the

Sakonnet Lighthouse rock (41°27'10"N, 71°12'10"W) and ending at approximately 41°26'55"N, 71°12'49"W.

(k) Site 58 begins at the Sakonnet Lighthouse rock (41°27'10"N, 71°12'10"W) and extends 1,680 feet south at approximately 180°.

(l) Sites 79A and 79B, located in line, extend west by south from West Island (41°27'0"N, 71°11'54"W) so-called, at approximately 250° for 3,360 feet to approximately 41°26'36"N, 71°12'30"W.

(m) Site 114A begins approximately 3,200 feet south be west of West Island (41°27'0"N, 71°11'54"W) so-called, at approximately 41°29'48"N, 71°7'33"W and extends at approximately 170° for 1,680 feet.

(n) Site 29 begins approximately 8,400 feet south by west of West Island (41°27'0"N, 71°11'54"W) so-called, at approximately 41°29'8"N, 71°8'17"W and extends at approximately 180° for 1,680 feet.

(o) Sites 614A and 614B, located in line, extend south beginning 2,000 feet east of Dolphin Rock (41°27'13"N, 71°11'7"W), so-called, at a bearing of approximately 180° for 3,360 feet.

(p) Site FC-1, located north of Coddington Cove, begins at approximately 41° 32' 33"N, 71° 18'52"W and extends at approximately 60° towards shore ending at approximately 41°32'40"N, 71°18'42"W.

(q) Site FC-2, located off Coddington Point, begins at approximately 41°32'27"N, 71°19'40"W and extends at approximately 180° towards shore ending at approximately 41°32'21"W, 71°19'39"N.

(r) Site FC-3 begins approximately 1,500 feet west of the state line at approximately 41°26'31"N, 71°12'9"W and extends south from South Shore Beach, Little Compton at approximately 180° for 1,680 feet.

(s) Site FC-4 begins approximately 3,000 feet south of the southwest corner of Tunipus Pond, Little Compton at approximately 41°25'39"N, 71°12'16"W and extends 1,680 feet at approximately 110°.

(t) Site 583-19 located southwest of site 120-19 extends 1,680 feet east at approximately 90°.

(u) Site 585-19 located northwest of Sakonnet Point begins at approximately 41°28'33"N, 71°12'41"W and extends 1,680 feet east at approximately 90°.

(v) Site 586-19

(3) The following sites are located east of the shore in Narragansett north of Scarborough Beach and south of Narragansett Pier within the area designated by



the Army Corp of Engineers for fish traps:

- (a) Sites 68A and 68B, located in line, begin approximately 1,500 feet north of Indian Rock (41°24'54"N, 71°27'8"W), so-called, and extend southeast by east at approximately 120° for 3,360 feet.
- (b) Sites 69A and 69B, located in line, begin approximately at Indian Rock (41°24'54"N, 71°27'8"W), so-called, and extend southeast by east at approximately 115° for 3,360 feet.
- (c) Sites 70A and 70B, located in line, begin approximately 2,000 feet south of Indian Rock (41°24'54"N, 71°27'8"W), so-called, and extend southeast by east at approximately 115° for 3,360 feet.
- (d) Sites 74A and 74B, located in line, begin approximately 5,100 feet south of Indian Rock (41°24'54"N, 71°27'8"W), so-called, and 600 feet from shore and extend southeast by east at approximately 130° for 3,360 feet.
- (e) Sites 75A and 75B, located in line, begin approximately 8,300 feet south of Indian Rock (41°24'54"N, 71°27'8"W), so-called, and extend southeast by south at approximately 145° for 3,360 feet.

(4) The following sites are located within the area of the Harbor of Refuge Point Judith:

- (a) Site 22-29, located outside of the Harbor of Refuge, begins approximately 1,200 feet northwest from the outer end of the west breakwater at approximately 41°22'5"N, 71°31'5"W and extends at approximately 250° for 550 feet.
- (b) Site 400-23, located outside the Harbor of Refuge, begins approximately 500 feet northwest from the outer end of the west breakwater at approximately 41°21'38"N, 71°29'34"W and extends at approximately 250°.
- (c) Site 475-29, located within the Harbor of Refuge, begins approximately at approximately 41°21'47"N, 71°29'34"W in front of Breakwater Village, so-called, and extends southwest at approximately 225° for approximately 900 feet.
- (d) Site 475-30, located within the Harbor of Refuge, begins approximately 500 feet north from the outer end of the east breakwater at approximately 41°22'5"N, 71°31'6"W and extends northwest at approximately 310° for approximately 650 feet.

**Commented [DP(5)]:** Regs re-located to Equipment Regs section 6.6.7